

Protecting Our Water—Expanding Our Parks

The underground reservoir and open space programs

What's going on?

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is replacing its open reservoirs with underground structures that will improve the quality and security of our water system and provide 76-acres of new open space for everyone to enjoy.

The City finished underground replacement work on Magnolia Reservoir in 1995 and Lincoln Reservoir in 2004. Four more are scheduled to be replaced by 2013. Myrtle Reservoir was placed back into service in July 2008 and Beacon Reservoir was placed back into service in February 2009. West Seattle Reservoir began construction in July 2008 and is targeted to be back in service in the summer of 2010.

Maple Leaf began construction in September 2009 and is scheduled to be back in service in 2012.

Meanwhile, Seattle Parks & Recreation (Parks) is working on plans to eventually transform the new public open space into full-fledged parks that will enhance both the neighborhoods and the city as a whole.

This is a rare opportunity to turn public works into public parks. The new underground reservoirs will improve the quality and security of our water system and provide 76-acres of new open space for everyone to enjoy.



West Seattle Reservoir in construction

Why build underground reservoirs?

Protecting our water system became a paramount goal since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Underground reservoirs are the most effective way to improve security.

The City began installing floating covers at some reservoirs in the late 1990s. The primary objectives of the program were to improve water quality and increase public health protection. While floating covers improved water quality, they raised security and visual impact concerns. These issues led the City to propose a different solution in 2002: replace the city's remaining uncovered reservoirs with safer, more secure underground facilities, and use the open space to create new parks.

How much will it cost?

SPU expects the total cost for burying Beacon, Myrtle, Maple Leaf and West Seattle Reservoirs to be about \$150 million. In 2009, \$3.24 of a typical homeowner's monthly water bill helps pay for the program. That amount will decrease by \$1.23 by 2012.

What will the new park space be like?

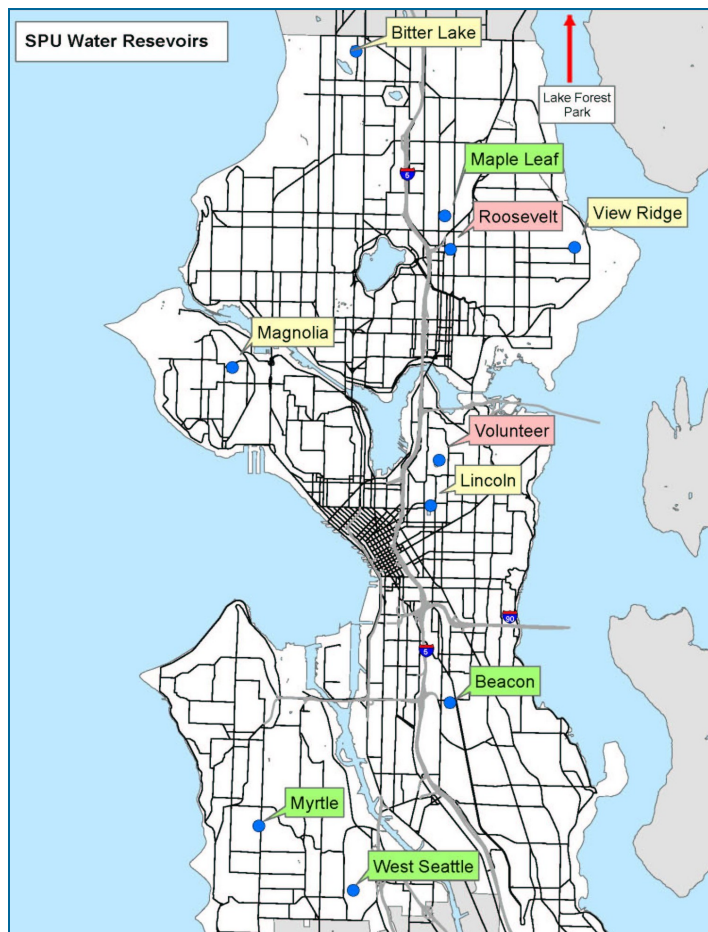
As part of the underground program costs, SPU will cover the reservoirs with drain rock, soil and grass and other low maintenance plants so the community can use the additional open space immediately.

Parks will work with communities to design and build new parks and recreation facilities at the underground reservoirs. The timing of those projects will depend on when money becomes available.

Parks began construction of Jefferson Park at Beacon Reservoir and plans to complete work and open a portion of the site in spring 2010. That project is to be paid in part by the 2000 Pro Parks Levy.

Will all City reservoirs be buried?

No. The underground program allows SPU to meet water storage needs while reducing the size of some reservoirs and closing one or two others. Floating covers installed in recent years at the Bitter Lake and Lake Forest Park reservoirs will remain for now. Security has been improved at those facilities.



Open space at Lincoln Reservoir

Project Details

Reservoir	Built	New Size (Gallons)	Work Starts	Finish
Beacon	1911	50,000,000	2006	2009
Myrtle	1947	5,000,000	2006	2009
West Seattle	1931	30,000,000	2008	2010
Maple Leaf	1910	60,000,000	2009	2012

Note: Roosevelt Reservoir is planned to be decommissioned after Maple Leaf is finished. Volunteer Reservoir will also likely be decommissioned in the future.

For Reservoir Project Questions

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